- Sharing of infrastructure to receive support from USO.
- Supporting backbone infrastructure through USO fund
- Discount in Annual License Fee and Spectrum Charges linked with Rural Coverage
- Development of suitable applications
- Reduction of rural VSAT license fees and spectrum charges and provision of transponders at affordable rates.
- No right of way charges for networks in rural areas.
- Niche Operators to be supported from USOF and exemption of spectrum charges.
- No spectrum fees for usage of CorDECT and similar technologies in rural areas as well as for usage of 450 MHz.
- No prior SACFA clearance for deployment of towers upto 40 m in rural areas.
- [illegible] of Universal Service Levy [illegible] be made available to USOF.

Indo-US cyber security

914. [illegible]
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Department of IT has established a framework for information security in the country which would be steered by standardization testing and quality certification;

(b) whether there is a need to develop an information security policy directions/guidelines/standards, certification and accreditation mechanisms in line with global practices that are brought for our country;

(c) whether India and US had set up Indo-US cyber security forum to exchange news on cyber security; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) As part of Department of Information Technology (DIT) initiatives on Information Security, Standardization Testing and Quality Certification (STQC) is providing necessary support to establish Information Security Assurance infrastructure in the country. Under this, STQC is providing following service to Indian industries/organizations:

— Information Security Management System certification (ISMS) as per BS 7799;

— Certified training courses for Information Security Professionals and Auditors;

— Vulnerability Assessment and Penetration Testing Services.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. Information Security Management System certification (ISMS) as above is in tune with global practices.

Under Indo-US cyber security forum, STQC is participating in the Working Group on Standards and Software Assurance and have developed collaborative programme with National Institute of Standards Technology (NIST), USA. Following activities are being undertaken under this collaborative programme:

— Support to NIST, USA in developing/review of standards/guidelines for Security Controls, Auditing, Risk Assessment, Certification and Accreditation;

— Conduct of joint seminar on Information Security Management and Standards in India and USA;

— Exchange of Experts.

Setting up of New Telephone Exchange in various States

†915. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Digital Trunk Automatic and Modern Telephone Exchange set up in various States during last three years, State-wise;

(b) the details of the proposed exchanges to be set up in various States during the current year, State-wise and the number of telephone exchanges already set-up so far out of them; and

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†Original notice of question was received in Hindi.